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RULES

OF THE

ST COECILIA SOCIETY :

AGREED upon and finally CONFIRMED,

November 22d, 1773.¹

I.

THE Society shall be called THE St. COECILIA SOCIETY, and consist of One hundred and twenty Members.

II.

THERE shall be annually FOUR GENERAL MEETINGS of the Society, namely, on St. Coecilia's Day, which shall be the ANNIVERSARY of the Society, and on the Third Thursdays in February, May, and August; on which General Meetings, the Members of the Society shall dine together.

On the Anniversary, the Society shall break' up at Five, and on the other General Meetings at Six o'Clock, in the Afternoon; at which Hours, the Steward shall call for and

¹ Although the St. Cecilia Society was organized in 1762 it would appear from the evidence before us that these were the first regular rules of the Society. They were printed in pamphlet form in 1774 with the following title page: Rules | of the | St. Coecilia | Society. | Charlestown: | Printed, for the Society, | by Robert Wells. | MDCCLXXIV. The copy here given was made from one of these pamphlets which was presented to the South Carolina Historical Society on April 30, last, by Mr. Eugene P. Jervy, of Charleston. The pamphlet is about three inches wide by six inches long, contains eleven pages, and is bound in board covers. So far as has been discovered the first mention of the St. Cecilia Society in print was made in *The South Carolina Gazette* for December 3rd, 1772, when a list was given of its officers elected the previous week.

settle the Bill. Every Member shall be charged Twenty Shillings currency towards defraying the Expence of the Dinner; and in Case of any Deficiency, the same shall be paid by the Members present at the said Meetings.

III.

THE Society, on their Anniversary, shall elect, by Ballot, a PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER, and STEWARD, and Eleven other Members, Residents in Charlestown, who, with the fore-named Officers, shall be constituted MANAGERS for the current Year. And in Case any Member, a Resident in Charlestown, shall, upon his Election, refuse to serve as Officer or Manager of the Society, such Person so refusing, if an Officer, shall pay a Fine of Ten Pounds currency; if a Manager, a Fine of Five Pounds currency; and the Society shall proceed to another Election in his or their Room.

IV.

ON the First Thursday in every Month, there shall be a Meeting of the Managers, at Six o'Clock in the Evening, from the first of October to the first of April; and at Seven o'Clock, from the first of April to the first of October.

In Case of the Death, Resignation, or Removal from Charlestown, of any of the Managers, the remaining Managers are empowered to supply the Vacancy.

But in Case of the Death, Resignation, or Removal from Charlestown, of any of the Officers, the Managers shall call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Society, giving a Fortnight's Notice thereof in all the Weekly Gazettes: And, on every other Emergency, the same Power is vested in them.

V.

THE Managers are impowered to fix the Number and Times of the CONCERTS; the Anniversary only excepted, on the Evening of which, a Concert shall always be performed;

also, to regulate every other Matter relating thereto, as well as every other Business of the Society, during the Recess of the Society.

VI.

ON every Anniversary, each Member shall pay, into the Hands of the Treasurer, for the Use of the Society, the Sum of TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS currency.

Upon Notice from the Treasurer, in Writing, of his Arrears due to the Society, whether those Arrears be for his Annual Subscription, his Dinner-Expences, or any other Fines incurred by him in the Society, and Person neglecting or refusing to discharge the same, at the next General Meeting of the Society, he shall be no longer deemed a Member.

VII.

ANY Person desirous of becoming a Member of the St. Coecilia Society, shall signify the same by a Letter, directed to the President of the Society; and whenever a Vacancy happens in the Society, the Members present, at their Next General Meeting, have Power to elect, or reject, the Candidate so offering himself; which Election, or Rejection, shall be by Ballot only; and the Assent of Two-thirds of the Members present shall be necessary for the Admission of such Candidate. And every Person, on his Election, shall subscribe the Rules of the Society, and pay to the Treasurer, for the use of the Society, THIRTY-FIVE POUNDS Currency.

VIII.

EVERY Member is allowed to introduce to the Concert as many LADIES as he thinks proper, who are to be admitted by Tickets, signed by a Member, and expressing the Name of the Lady to whom each Ticket is presented.

No other Person is to be admitted, except STRANGERS, and

they only by Tickets, from a Manager, signed and directed as before specified.

No Boys are to be, on any Account, admitted.

IX.

THE Treasurer shall immediately, upon his Election into Office, take Charge of all the Ready Monies, Bonds, Securities, and other Effects, belonging to the Society; and give Bond to the President and Vice-President to be accountable to them, or to the Order of the President and Managers, for the same, Fire and other inevitable Accidents excepted.

He is not, on any Account, to pay, or lend at Interest, any of the Society's Monies, but by Order of the Society, or the Order of the President, together with the Approbation of the Managers.

X.

At all Meetings of the Society, not less than Twenty-one Members, and at all Meetings of the Managers, not less than Five Members, shall be a Quorum to transact Business.

All Matters, canvassed at any of those Meetings, shall be determined by a Majority of Votes, the Election of Members only excepted, which, according to Rule VII. is to be determined by, at least, Two-thirds of the Society present at their General Meetings.

The President, or in his Absence, the Vice-President, or, in Case of the Absence of both of them, a Person chosen as Chairman by the Members present, shall keep due Order and Decorum in the Society.

Every Member, speaking of Business, shall address himself immediately to the Chair.

XI.

At every General Meeting, the Society shall proceed to Business at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon; and in Case the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer, do not attend at

the said Hour, they shall each pay a Fine, to the Society, of Thirty-two Shillings and Six-pence currency; and every other Member, residing in Charlestown, who does not attend at the said Hour, shall pay in Fine of Ten Shillings currency; unless the Society, to whose Judgment all Fines are to be referred, shall, at their next General Meeting, see sufficient Cause to remit the same.

XII.

NONE of the foregoing Rules shall be altered, or any new ones enacted, until they have been proposed and agreed upon at Two General Meetings of the Society.